

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Spring has finally arrived on both the Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses with many of us turning our thoughts to sunny days ahead. Last Saturday, March 27 began the week of Passover celebrations. Starting this past Thursday and continuing throughout the weekend, many will observe the Easter holiday. During the evening of April 12, Ramadan will commence for the annual fasting that lasts 30 days. While you decide if you will attend or host a gathering with family and friends this weekend and in the upcoming weeks, we ask you to consider the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Small indoor and outdoor gatherings with vaccinated individuals are considered low risk for the transmission of COVID-19. However, the CDC does recommend using masks and following social distancing protocols when you are meeting with unvaccinated individuals from more than one household, or someone who is in a high risk infection category. As we look back to this time a year ago, let's appreciate how far we have come as a community and ready to embrace this spring as a new beginning.

This past week we have 2 COVID-19 positive cases student cases and 2 faculty and staff cases, both from the Downers Grove Campus. We have no cases to report from the Glendale Campus.

Operation Hope continues to be a vital community resource for both the Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses. As of today, we have successfully completed over 8500 vaccinations. We are also pleased to announce that in the next few weeks, we will be administering on the Glendale Campus the Janssen one-dose vaccine produced by Johnson and Johnson, while continuing second-dose appointments of Moderna. We are hopeful that we can also receive the Janssen vaccine for the Downers Grove Vaccination Center in the weeks to come.

As we expand our services in the Vaccination Centers, we have reached out to smaller employers, family members of our faculty, staff and students, and other charitable institutions. The Glendale Campus Vaccination Center will open its doors on Saturday, April 10, 2021 to vaccinate the staff, caregivers and athletes of the Special Olympics Arizona. We are excited to provide this wonderful service to their many members.

Update on Spring Closing Ceremonies

After a careful review of the proposed Closing Ceremonies for our graduating classes, we are moving the College of Dental Medicine – Arizona to Friday afternoon, May 28, 2021, following the early afternoon closing ceremony of the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. As a reminder, the spring graduations are only for the Colleges with programs that complete their requirements by June. Programs scheduled to graduate in August, 2021 are not participating in the Closing Ceremonies this spring. Information on the August commencements will be issued in the months to come.

Diversity and Inclusion Activities

April is Celebrate Diversity Month here at Midwestern University, and we have many activities planned to recognize and honor all members of our community. As we continue with our work and make meaningful changes in our programs and operations, I was very saddened to read of the inappropriate behaviors towards the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) community and the tragedies they have suffered. Our University community has been blessed with many Asian faculty, staff and students who

are vital members of the health care team and our mission. We stand united with all of our AAPI members in condemning any acts of violence or scorn.

- The Human Resource Diversity Coordinators have many upcoming opportunities in April for faculty and staff, which began today with “Light up in Blue” to support understanding and acceptance of people with Autism. Please watch for their announcements.
- Virtual Health Careers Month is being held this month for 3700 high school students from 50 different schools, including many from underserved communities. Approximately 1580 students will participate in the Downers Grove Campus program and 2131 in the Glendale Campus program. A special thanks to the faculty who have assisted in preparing these important virtual career events.

May all of you enjoy the beauty of our spring days, the fellowship of family and friends, and the joy of this season. Whether you are coloring Easter eggs, baking a special cake or taking a walk in the sun, may your weekend be special.

Be well.

Dr. G.